



This is Afterschool in Wyoming

In Jackson, Wyoming, Teton County School District dedicated American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds to expand their afterschool programs, hiring a director to lead the effort. Since the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the afterschool program reached 235 students in kindergarten through 5th grade, as well as more than 200 middle and high school students who served as mentors and tutors for the elementary schoolers. In addition to participation by elementary school students increasing by 55% compared to the previous school year, the number of clubs and activities offered at the elementary level also increased five-fold, from seven to 35. Opportunities in the afterschool program included sports, arts and crafts, and academic enrichment, ranging from a pilot program called “¡Amigos!,” where 30 Spanish-speaking middle school students mentored elementary school Spanish speaking students, to a construction club, where staff and volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area helped students build bird and bee boxes, while students learned about bird habitats.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Wyoming youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Wyoming, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program’s long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Wyoming are accelerating students’ growth, supporting students’ well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Wyoming students in afterschool programs are:



Getting homework help **(54%)**



Engaging in STEM learning opportunities **(48%)**



Working on their reading and writing skills **(50%)**



Interacting with their peers and building social skills **(91%)**



Taking part in physical activities **(93%)**



Building confidence **(84%)**



91% of Wyoming parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Wyoming parents agree that afterschool programs are:



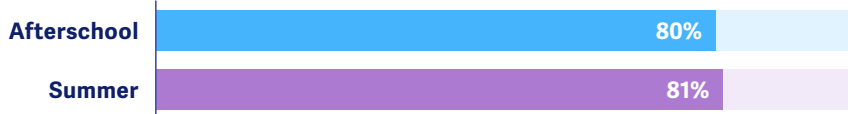
Helping working parents keep their jobs **(77%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(83%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Wyoming parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Research spanning several states shows that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in afterschool programs **SAVES AT LEAST \$3** by:

- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Wyoming, 7,410 children in 77 communities take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center. 21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in Wyoming is so great that more than 1 out of every 4 applications was not funded during the most recent competition.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, a 2024 review of Wyoming's 21st CCLC programs by the Wyoming Department of Education found that nearly 8 in 10 programs met their goal of students who had a school-day attendance rate at or below 90% the previous school year, demonstrating an improved school-day attendance (79%) and students experiencing a decrease in in-school suspensions compared to the previous school year (79%). Additionally, 3 in 4 programs met their goal of students in grades 4 through 8 demonstrating growth on the state's math assessments (75%), while more than 2 in 3 met their goal of students in grades 4 through 8 demonstrating growth on the state's reading/language arts assessments (68%). Nearly 8 in 10 programs (79%) also met their goal of students in grades 1 through 5 demonstrating improvement in their engagement in learning, based on teacher reports.

